

ILLEGIB

ER: 60-5853/A

5 AUG 1960

Caro
Comdr. J. B. Osborn
Commanding Officer
U.S.S. George Washington
c/o Fleet Post Office
New York, New York

Dear Commander Osborn:

I very much appreciate the thoughtfulness of you and Admiral Rickover in sending me the letter mailed on July 20th from the U.S.S. George Washington on the occasion of the firing of the first POLARIS missile from a submerged submarine.

This firing was indeed an achievement of the highest historical magnitude and I am pleased to have your letter as a memento of this great event. You are to be congratulated on your role as Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. George Washington when this milestone in naval history was achieved.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

Allen W. Dulles
Director

STAT

O/DCI/[]: vgd 3 Aug 60

Distribution:

orig - Addressee

1 - DCI w/attachment to basic

✓ 1 - ER w/basic

1 - FMC

Handwritten:

P.S. I recall vividly my recent visit to
the U.S.S. George Washington. A. W. D.

(EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE 0)

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Via Reading

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Dulles

You will note that you received two copies of the identical letter mailed from the U.S.S. George Washington on July 20th. Some time ago when you received one of the first missile letters I recall that you had a young boy in your neighborhood who was interested in getting one of those postal covers. If this young man is still your neighbor and a philatelist, you may be interested in passing one of these covers on to him.

3 August 60

(DATE)

FORM NO. 101 REPLACES FORM 10-101
1 AUG 54 WHEN CLAY REPROD.

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U.S.S. GEORGE WASHINGTON (SSB(N)598)

Care of Fleet Post Office

New York, New York

Cape Canaveral, Florida

July 20, 1960

A milestone in naval history was marked today when the U.S.S. George Washington fired a Polaris missile from a submerged position off Cape Canaveral. This is an achievement, we believe, of the same historical magnitude as the firing of the first artillery cannon, the dropping of the first aerial bomb and the launching of the first ballistic missile. Each of these events wrought significant changes in the concept of war, making it progressively more destructive and yet by extending the areas of destruction, progressively more unprofitable. With the Polaris-firing nuclear submarine an entirely new threshold has been reached.

It is a military axiom that for every offense there is a defense. Cannons were not the ultimate weapon because other cannons could easily destroy them. Bombers could be shot down. Hard missile bases can be knocked out by other missiles. By this rule, the Polaris submarine is as close to an ultimate weapon as we are likely to see for a long time to come. Its base is the environs of the oceans, more than seventy percent of the Earth's surface, which it can roam at will, always prepared to answer aggression with devastation.

If war were to begin tomorrow and the United States Navy had only one operational Polaris submarine, the enemy would be forced to assume that every submarine at sea was that submarine, capable of launching missiles representing greater firepower than all the bombs dropped by both sides during World War II. One ship, with greater firepower than the greatest fleet ever massed--the Allied fleet for the Normandy invasion.

There is equally an historical significance to the fact that the Polaris submarine is a product of free people, determined to remain free. Since the dawn of time men have devoted their finest talents, as well as their lives, to the defense of their freedom. The crossbow and the atomic bomb were both conceived as weapons against tyranny. Now they are joined by the Polaris submarine--"a product of the minds and hearts and hands of free men and women".

As the U.S.S. George Washington prepares to take a rightful place in the fleet as a new deterrent force, the words of President Eisenhower on her launching on June 9, 1959, are appropriate: "It is my prayerful hope that this ship will be always ready but never used".


J. B. OSBORN

Commander, U. S. Navy

Commanding Officer

U.S.S. George Washington (SSB(N) 598)

U.S.S. GEORGE WASHINGTON (SSB(N)598)

Care of Fleet Post Office

New York, New York

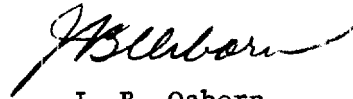
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July 20, 1960

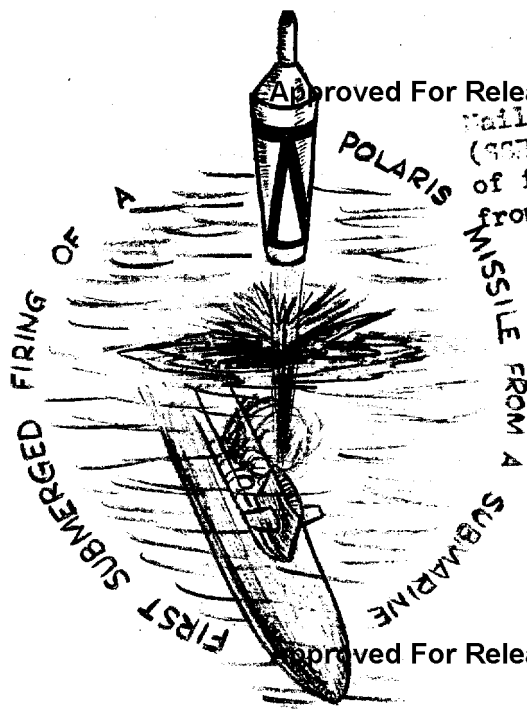
Dear Mr. Dulles:

At Admiral Rickover's request, I am sending you a letter commemorating the first submerged launching of the POLARIS missile from a nuclear powered submarine.

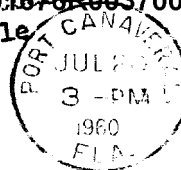
Sincerely yours,



J. B. Osborn
Commander, U.S. Navy
Commanding Officer



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 Mailed aboard ship: 20 July 1960 on USS GEORGE EASTMAN (SSB(N)592) of firing first Polaris Missile from a submerged submarine.



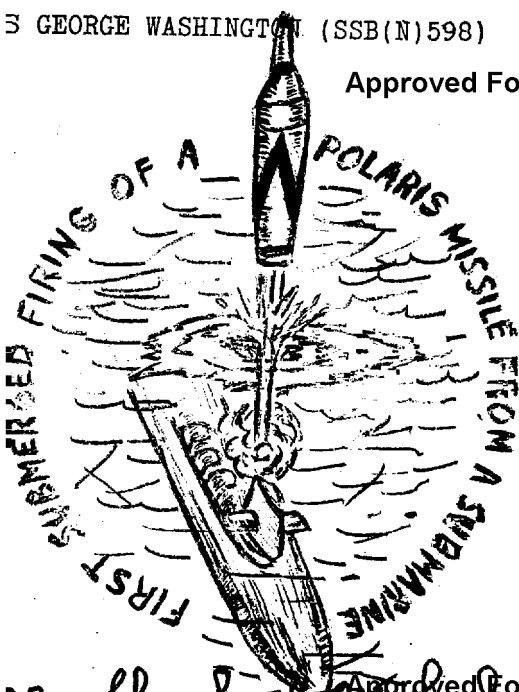
Mr. Allen Dulles, Director
 Central Intelligence Agency
 2430 "E" Street, N.W.
 Washington, D. C.



USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (SSB(N)598)

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Mailed aboard USS George Washington
(SSB(N)598) 20 July 1960 on occasion
of firing first Polaris Missile
from a submerged submarine.



The Honorable Allen Dulles
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C.

DR *Shepherd M. Fink, Jr.* Approved For Release 2003/05/23 : CIA-RDP80B01676R003700010015-7
Engineer Officer